Raising the Age: Connecticut’s Experience and Outcomes

Mike Lawlor
Undersecretary for Criminal Justice Policy and Planning

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Major reforms in CT

1995 -- Major Juvenile Justice Reform Enacted Following Spike in Crime

1997 – Federal Court Consent Decree Regarding Conditions of Confinement in Juvenile Training School

1998 – Creation of “Family Support Centers” for Status Offenders

1999 – Consolidation of Juvenile Detention and Probation into new Judicial Branch Agency

2001 – Opening of Connecticut Juvenile Training School

2002 – Allegations of Abuse at CJTS

2005 – Scandal regarding Construction of CJTS Leads to Impeachment Hearings, Resignation and Incarceration of Governor
Major reforms in CT

2005 – Law enacted Banning Detention of Status Offenders Effective in 2007

2006 – Legislature Begins Planning Process to Raise the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction from 16 to 18

2007 – Final Report of Raising the Age Issued, Legislation Passes Effective January 1, 2010

2008 – State Fiscal Crisis Leads to Call to Delay Raise the Age Due to Projected Cost

2009 – Governor Proposes Two Year Delay; Legislature Compromises. Add 16 yo in 2010, Delay 17 yo to July 1, 2012
• Statewide arrests (adult and juvenile) by age in 2008
• Source: Crime in Connecticut, annual reports by the CT State Police
• Most 15-year olds arrested in 2008 were born in 1993
• In 2009, arrests among youth under 18 were down significantly
Arrests by age

- In 2010, arrests kept declining particularly among 16-, 17- and 18-years olds.

Raise the age: 16 year olds January 1, 2010
Arrests by age

[Graph showing arrests by age with data points for different years (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011).]
• By 2012, arrests among youth aged 18-, 19- and 20-year old were down significantly

Raise the age: 17-year olds July 1, 2012
• By 2014, the drop in arrests was edging towards older youth.
• By 2014, the drop in arrests was edging towards older youth.
Arrests by age

Change in statewide arrests by age 2008 to 2014

Percent change in statewide arrests by age 2008 to 2015
We observed that arrests among younger, offender cohorts declined most. Older age cohorts, actually, grew.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>-60%</td>
<td>-37%</td>
<td>-15%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>-24%</td>
<td>-43%</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>-43%</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

.. and then we observed a spread among those aged 35 to 50.
Arrests by age, 15-19 through 65+

Statewide arrests by age cohort 2008-2015

2010 Census data
## Change in size of prison population by age group, July 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;16</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>2067</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>1732</td>
<td>1510</td>
<td>1391</td>
<td>1167</td>
<td>1011</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>-54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-29</td>
<td>5498</td>
<td>5413</td>
<td>5120</td>
<td>4802</td>
<td>4894</td>
<td>4740</td>
<td>4573</td>
<td>4211</td>
<td>-23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>5446</td>
<td>5235</td>
<td>4937</td>
<td>4750</td>
<td>4927</td>
<td>4981</td>
<td>4929</td>
<td>4788</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;40</td>
<td>5548</td>
<td>5614</td>
<td>5681</td>
<td>5378</td>
<td>5676</td>
<td>5591</td>
<td>5430</td>
<td>5324</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18891</td>
<td>18431</td>
<td>17631</td>
<td>16591</td>
<td>16988</td>
<td>16551</td>
<td>16025</td>
<td>15342</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discounting seasonal variations, the pre-trial, prison population and the number of persons admitted to prison on a pre-trial basis has been declining steadily since 2008.

Of persons admitted to prison in pre-trial status each month only about 25% are new to the prison system.
New persons admitted to the CT DOC on pre-trial status

Percent change in the number of new persons admitted to DOC on pre-trial status, 2008 to 2014:

- **All persons:** -33% (6,546 to 4,370)
- **Persons under 25:** -48% (3,480 to 1,825)
- **Persons 25 and older:** -17% (3,066 to 2,545)
New persons admitted to the CT DOC on pre-trial status by age at admit

Pre-trial admissions, new persons

Year


Pre-trial admissions, new persons

Year


Pre-trial admissions, new persons

Year


Pre-trial admissions, new persons

Year


Pre-trial admissions, new persons

Year


Pre-trial admissions, new persons

Year